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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 305  
By Bone

A RESOLUTION To congratulate John and Nedra Stephens on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly takes great pleasure in honoring those successful marriages that have prevailed to serve as standards for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, John Stephens and Nedra Brender were joined in holy matrimony fifty years ago at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City; since that delightful day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, depending upon their love for each other during life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, On November 26, 2000, the Stephens' children and grandchildren held a reception at the First United Methodist Church in honor of their wedding anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The couple met in Lebanon while John was working for his uncle, O. W. Stephens, at the Lebanon Bank; during this time, John was attending Cumberland Law School after bravely serving from 1943-1947 in the United States Army Air Force as a pilot; and

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WHEREAS, Upon graduation from law school, the armed services recalled him back into active status as a pilot; they left Lebanon and began their married life in Oklahoma City; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Colonel Stephens honorably retired from the Air Force in 1967 after twenty five years of active service; and upon his retirement, the couple returned to Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, Active in the Lebanon community, John Stephens is a member of the Noon Rotary Club having served as its Treasurer, President, and Director; and he is also a former Director of the Lebanon Bank and is currently serving on the local board of the First Tennessee Bank; and

WHEREAS, In addition to these activities, he serves astutely as an attorney and as a sales representative for Wiley Brothers Investment Company of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephens is deeply devoted to her family; as a wife and mother, she has made her home a haven of joy and beauty. She is also active in her community, serving skillfully as a member and former officer of the Village Women's Club, Lebanon Music Club, and the Wilson County Republican Women's Club; and

WHEREAS, They have been valuable and faithful members of the First Baptist Church of Lebanon since 1967; and

WHEREAS, For fifty years this union has endured to serve as a testament to the power of love and family; and

WHEREAS, This couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced three wonderful children; the Stephenses' children and their spouses are Lonnie and Peggy Stephens, Bruce and Charnell Johnson, and Tom Stephens and Maggie Conway; and

WHEREAS, John and Nedra Stephens are also blessed with the love of their grandchildren, Trenton Stephens and Aubrey, Mallory, and Heath Johnson; and

WHEREAS, The Stephenses' are the epitome of good neighbors and they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, Marriages such as theirs represent the best of our society, as they remind us of the beauty and value of continuity and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate John and Nedra Stephens on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.